

**JOINT MEETING
CHILD SAFETY BOARD & SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 31, 2005**

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Board members present were Alice Harrington, John Pisula, Marcy Fallahzadeh, Barbara Tilley, Cynthia Frost, and Lawrence Davis. Also present were Kelly Hamilton of the National Safety Council, Councilmember Susan Starkey and Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Absent were Richard Colgan, Marlon Luis, Lisa Mustelier, Rebecca Orlando, Kimberly Sereda, Jeanette Davis, Jill Fiorentino, Jeffrey Jacobs, Margie Maine, Lynne Marie Watters and Sharon Zane.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.1 Recap Davie Child Safety Act

Councilmember Starkey advised that the ordinance regarding sexual predators unanimously passed on second reading at the May 18th Town Council meeting. She advised that other municipalities such as Pembroke Pines, Miramar and Cooper City had been interested in passing their own ordinance on this issue. Councilmember Starkey indicated that State Representative Susan Goldstein had agreed to "take up the charge" in Tallahassee by introducing a bill regarding mandatory distance separations between the residences of sexual predators and places where children congregate. In addition, Representative Goldstein indicated that she would look into other ways to assist law enforcement agencies in tracking and enforcing fines on sexual predators and offenders. Councilmember Starkey also advised that Attorney General's Office Charlie Crist was also looking into ways to help with this issue at the State level.

Mr. Davis noted that the enforceability seemed vague and asked if the language had been challenged. Councilmember Starkey responded that the language was upheld although it had not been challenged in the Supreme Court. She added that the only difference in the language was that the distance had been extended 1,000 feet and that trails were included in the places where children congregate. Gerard Starkey, a member of the Miami Police Department, and Councilmember Starkey both helped to clarify some points of the ordinance. Councilmember Starkey indicated that Council was content with the ordinance and that the direction for the Task Force was to come up with a plan to educate parents and children before the end of the school year since most offenses took place during the summer months.

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Action Plan

As members of the Task Force had been given assignments to report on, Ms. Fallahzadeh was the first to speak of her conversation with the director of Creative Child Learning Center. As an effective program had been established at this facility on a semi-annual basis, it was suggested that parents be warned not to let children put their pictures or profiles on the computer as predators could be use this information to get close to the children.

Councilmember Starkey indicated that she had access to disks produced by the Child Safety Board which addressed Internet safety for children and their parents. She planned to deliver the disks to the Creative Child Learning Center for distribution to parents before the summer.

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Mr. Davis spoke of the radKIDS program which he termed as “awesome” and from which his own children had benefited by attending. He suggested that resources be “beefed up” to support the program so it may be taught on another night as he understood there was a waiting list. Councilmember Starkey agreed and advised that the Task Force had discussed this at the last meeting and had decided to ask that the Police Department be granted additional resources to cross-train officers in the radKIDS program.

Mr. Davis stated that in speaking with other parents, many were not aware of the radKIDS program and, therefore, it needed to be promoted in the schools. He suggested that in order to be ready when school starts in August, the information should be disseminated to the schools so they could get a bigger list together in order to justify why more officers were needed in the Police Department to teach the children.

Councilmember Starkey advised that the budget cycle had been started and that the recommendations made by the Task Force would hopefully be incorporated by Council. Mr. Davis indicated that he would like to see the schools targeted with the information.

Councilmember Starkey spoke of two action plans, a short term plan which was before the summer and a long term plan which would be more specific to what the Task Force needed. Since there were only two school days left, it was decided that Ms. Hamilton would e-mail the schools to provide the link to the website which had the Top 10 radKIDS Safety Hints in order to have it printed out and taken home with the students.

It was also discussed that Ms. Hamilton would provide information from the National Safety Council to the Task Force to be reviewed before it was distributed to the DARE officers in September. This would be part of the long term action plan.

Ms. Harrington mentioned that some schools had a “robot dialing” phone system to call student’s homes. At Councilmember Starkey’s request, Mr. Pisula agreed to speak with Dr. Till to see if safety information could be passed along on that system. Mr. Pisula also suggested that the PTA be given the link information.

Councilmember Starkey determined that it was most important that the information be conveyed to the principals; however, the Task Force could not mandate what the principals should do with the information. For the long term goals, she expressed that the Task Force should come up with those plans that would help out and start listing as many things that may be useful for the start of the new school year.

Ms. Harrington asked how many brochures or flyers would the Town have to supply if the program was promoted through the schools as was intended. She asked that since a waiting list for the radKIDS program already existed, wouldn’t that exacerbate the problem.

Mr. Davis suggested that video taping a radKIDS class and showing it to students during normal school hours might be of some benefit since the program was so exclusive. Councilmember Starkey responded that the Adam Walsh Foundation had a video; however, it did not come close to the hands on experience of the radKIDS program.

Ms. Hamilton advised that one of the long term issues that the National Safety Council was working on with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). She added that it was an interactive CD-rom that they could put into the computer for both children and parents and she spoke of how well it worked.

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An idea proposed by Ms. Harrington was to train other segments of the community as was done with the Crime Watch Program. Councilmember Starkey advised that various members of the community were being trained by police officers and that the Police Chief John George was committed to making sure there were more people involved in the radKIDS program.

Ms. Hamilton spoke of the various ways children had been targeted by predators and of the methods which the FDLE was using to combat these disturbing trends.

Mr. Pisula reminded everyone about the sportsmanship gathering to take place on Thursday. Councilmember Starkey asked Ms. Frost to check on the brochures to see that enough were available for distribution at the event as well as for a coaches training event on Saturday. Ms. Frost briefly discussed what she could recall about the available supply of brochures. She mentioned that it was important to reach out to private schools and home schooling associations. Ms. Frost offered to e-mail the link that Ms. Hamilton spoke of earlier to the home schooling associations. Councilmember Starkey advised that officers went to the private schools with the radKIDS programs.

Ms. Harrington suggested that the August issue of the Davie Update, include a column about the program and a list of the safety links. Councilmember Starkey asked to be provided with the list of links.

A discussion ensued regarding the July 4th festivities at Pine Island Park and how to promote the program throughout the day. Among the many good suggestions, Mr. Starkey conveyed the idea of combining the radKIDS demonstrations along with the canine demonstrations.

Mr. Pisula expressed that having the information available at the parks would be beneficial. Ms. Frost recalled that a site had been picked out at the multi-purpose center to have a magazine rack which was a tribute to Joy Yoder. She believed that the information could be easily displayed on the magazine rack.

Mr. Pisula made a recommendation for Council to move forward with the July 4th festivities and incorporate the radKIDS information at the Child Safety booth and ask the Chief George to have radKIDS demonstrations incorporated with the canine demonstrations. Ms. Tilley seconded the recommendation.

Councilmember Starkey recommended that a report on the short-term goals be presented to the Council at the June 1st meeting. Ms. Tilley indicated that she would be attending the meeting and could read the list in Ms. Harrington's place. Between Councilmember Starkey and Ms. Hamilton, they defined that one long-term goal was to provide schools with the National Safety Council's interactive, hands-on CD Rom which children and parents participated in and was similar in content to the radKIDS information. It would be issued to the schools through the DARE officers and the School Resource Officers. Other long-term goals were to work with legislators on child safety issues, and through research at the Adam Walsh Foundation, find out the helpful links which could be published in the Davie Update. Councilmember Starkey suggested that the Task Force compose an article for the August publication of the Davie Update.

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Mr. Pisula mentioned that doing something with the National Safety Council on BEACON and Comcast would benefit not just the Town but all of Broward County.

Mr. Pisula made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tilley, to submit a short-term action plan to Council which contained the immediate action steps to provide public safety information before the end of school as well as a long term plan to be submitted at a later date, and the high points of previous meetings. In a voice vote, with Ms. Mustelier, Ms. Orlando, Ms. Sereda, Ms. Davis, Ms. Fiorentino, Dr. Jacobs, Mr. Colgan, Mr. Luis, Ms. Maine, Ms. Watters and Ms. Zane being absent, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 6-0)

A discussion ensued about the length of time for which the Task Force had been appointed and members decided that they would combine the regularly scheduled meetings of the Child Safety Board and the School Advisory Board.

Mr. Pisula made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tilley, to combine the June 20th and July 11th meetings of the two boards as joint meetings of the Task Force at 7:00 p.m. at the Police Department. In a voice vote, with Ms. Mustelier, Ms. Orlando, Ms. Sereda, Ms. Davis, Ms. Fiorentino, Dr. Jacobs, Mr. Colgan, Mr. Luis, Ms. Maine, Ms. Watters and Ms. Zane being absent, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 6-0)

The Board discussed the items for the next agenda which was to include drafting a letter for the Davie Update.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Chair/Committee Member